



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1742
Examiner : Deborah Yee
Serial No. : 10/654,775
Filed : September 4, 2003
Inventors : Chikara Kami

Customer No.: 035811

: Akio Tosaka
: Takuya Yamazaki

Docket No.: 1012-DIV-2-02

Confirmation No.: 5504

Title : COLD ROLLED STEEL SHEET AND
: GALVANIZED STEEL SHEET HAVING
: STRAIN AGE HARDENABILITY AND
: METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME

Dated: April 14, 2005

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the Official Action dated January 18, 2005.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth in detail below.

The Applicants acknowledge the provisional rejection of Claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 with respect to statutory double patenting. The Applicants note that since this rejection is a provisional rejection, that no action need be taken at this time.

The Applicants acknowledge the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 21 and 22 over EP '696. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed and helpful comments concerning the hypothetical application of EP '696 against Claims 21 and 22. Nonetheless, the Applicants respectfully submit that both claims are allowable over EP '696 for the reasons set forth in detail below.